

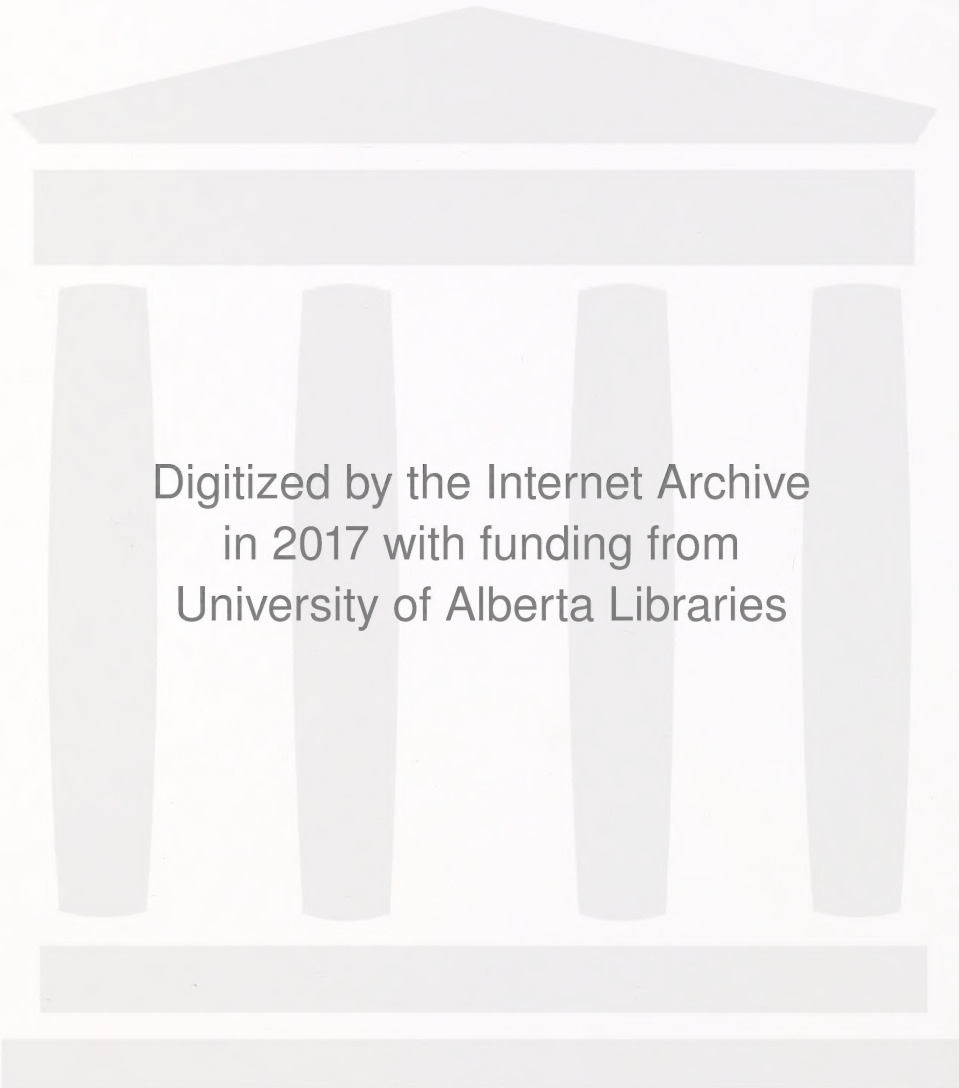
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ALBERTA PROFILES:

**ABORIGINALS  
IN THE  
LABOUR FORCE**

**2008**





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## Highlights

### **1. Population and Identities, Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off Reserve)**

- About 57% of the working age population (WAP)<sup>1</sup> of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve was Métis.
- Over 66% of the WAP of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve was between the ages of 25 and 64 years.

### **2. Population by Region, Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)**

- Edmonton and Calgary economic regions had the highest number of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

### **3. Participation Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)**

- Participation rates of Aboriginal people living off-reserve were lower than those of Alberta's WAP.

### **4. Unemployment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)**

- The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was more than double the rate for Albertans.
- The unemployment rate for North American Indians in Alberta was two percentage points higher than the rate for Métis.

### **5. Employment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)**

- The employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was lower than the rate for Albertans by 6.4 percentage points.
- Among off-reserve Aboriginal groups, the Métis had the highest employment rate, 65.8%.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this profile, the working age population (WAP) is defined as people who are 15 years or older.



## **Highlights**

### **6. Employment by Industry, Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)**

- The Services-Producing Sector employed 67.2% of Aboriginal people living off-reserve.
- More than half of employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta worked in the following five industries: Retail or Wholesale Trade, 15.2%; Construction, 14.1%; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas, 10.4%; Health Care and Social Assistance, 7.2%; and Transportation and Warehousing, 7.1%.

### **7. Employment by Occupation, Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)**

- The three occupations that employed 71.6% of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve were: Trades, transport, and equipment operators and related, Sales and service, and Business, finance and administrative occupations.

### **8. Educational Attainment of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)**

- In 2008, 33.7% of the Alberta's Aboriginal population living off-reserve had completed post-secondary certificate or diploma, or university degree.
- The proportion of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta with less than a high school diploma was 36.0%.

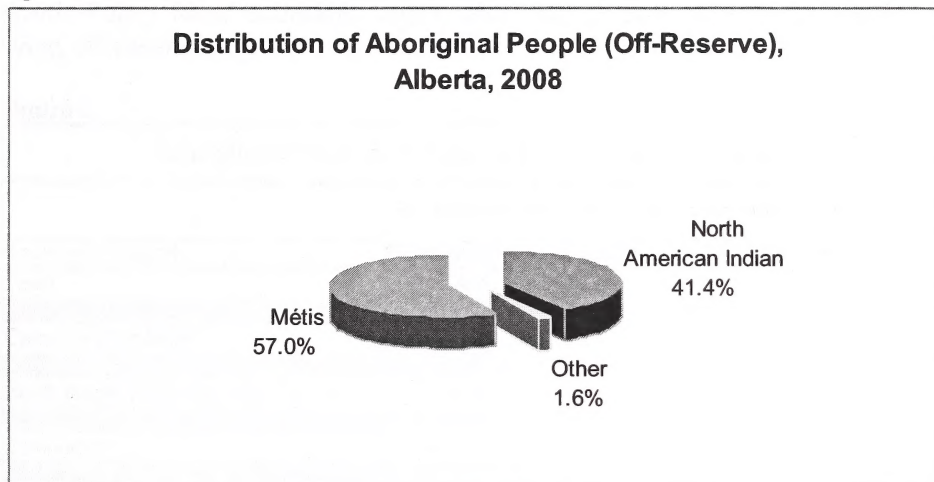




# 1. Population and Identities Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

Figure 1 displays the population identities of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve of working age (15 years and older). North American Indians made up 41.4% of the population, Métis represented 57.0% of the population and 1.6% were of other identities, which is Inuit or multiple responses.

**Figure 1**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008

Note: Data represents those aged 15+ years

In 2008, the working age population of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta was 101,400, which were 2,800 more than 2007. The proportions of Aboriginal people between the ages of 15 and 24 years, and 25 and 64 years were 26.3% and 66.9% respectively (Figure 2). The corresponding proportions for all Albertans were 18.0% and 69.6%, respectively.

**Figure 2**

Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve) by Age Group, Alberta, 2008						
	All Aboriginal People		North American Indian		Métis	
	Population	% of total	Population	% of total	Population	% of total
Working Age Population (15 + years)	101,400	100.0%	42,000	100.0%	57,800	100.0%
15 - 24 years	26,700	26.3%	11,300	26.9%	15,000	26.0%
25 - 64 years	67,800	66.9%	28,600	68.1%	38,000	65.7%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008





## 2. Population by Region Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In Alberta, 58.8% of the Aboriginal people living off-reserve lived in the Edmonton and Calgary economic regions in 2008 (Figure 3). An economic region is defined by Statistics Canada as a geographical unit composed of several census divisions within a province.

Outside of the Edmonton and Calgary economic regions, the Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River economic region also had a high number of Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

**Figure 3**

<b>Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve) by Economic Region, Alberta, 2008</b>						
	<b>All Aboriginal People</b>		<b>North American Indian</b>		<b>Métis</b>	
<b>Economic Region</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,400</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>57,800</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Lethbridge-Medicine Hat	4,200	4.1%	2,600	6.2%	1,500	2.6%
Camrose-Drumheller	5,000	4.9%	2,200	5.2%	2,700	4.7%
Calgary	24,900	24.6%	12,100	28.8%	12,600	21.8%
Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House	3,300	3.3%	1,200	2.9%	2,000	3.5%
Red Deer	3,500	3.5%	0	0.0%	2,800	4.8%
Edmonton	34,700	34.2%	14,900	35.5%	19,100	33.0%
Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River	17,200	17.0%	5,400	12.9%	11,500	19.9%
Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake	8,600	8.5%	2,900	6.9%	5,500	9.5%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008

Aboriginal population (15+ Years)



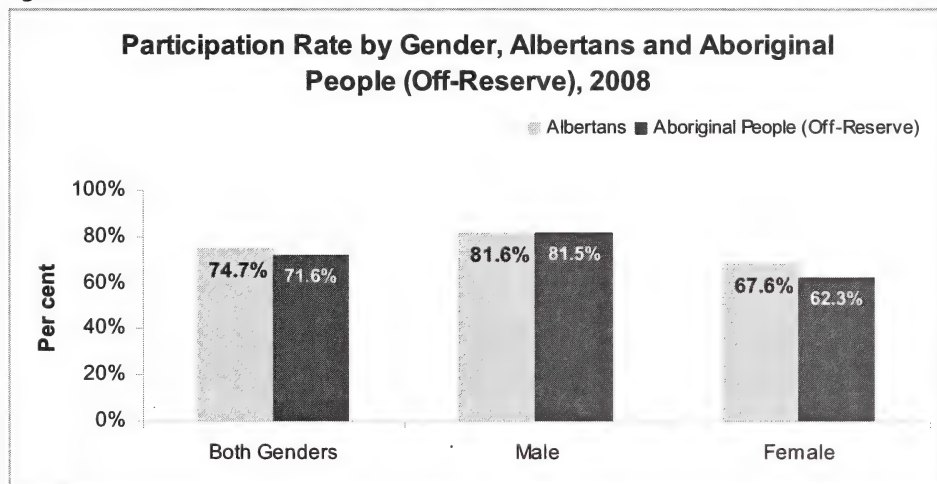


### 3. Participation Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

Figure 4 shows the participation rate for Albertans and Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve. Overall, the participation rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was lower than that for Albertans; the difference was below 3.5 percentage points. In 2008, 71.6% of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve participated in the labour force compared to 74.7% of Albertans.

The difference in male participation rates between Albertans and Aboriginal Albertans was minimal, but the difference was greater for females. Male participation rates for Albertans and Aboriginal People living off-reserve were 81.6% and 81.5% respectively. The gap in participation rates between Alberta's females and Aboriginal females (off-reserve) was 5.3 percentage points.

**Figure 4**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008



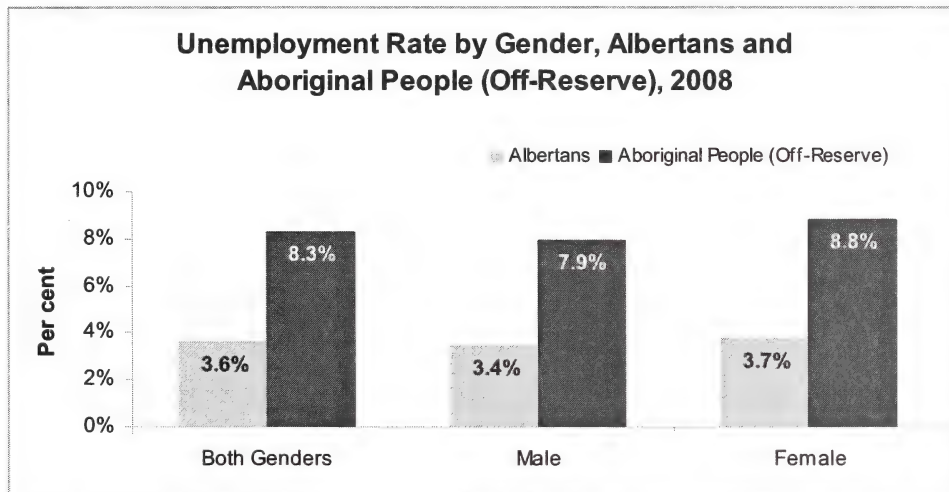


#### 4. Unemployment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

Figure 5 shows that the unemployment rate for Alberta's off-reserve Aboriginal people was higher than for Albertans. The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was 8.3%. This was 4.7 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate for Alberta's working age population.

Male Aboriginal Albertans had an unemployment rate of 7.9% while male Albertans had an unemployment rate of 3.4%, a difference of 4.5 percentage points. Female Aboriginal Albertans had an unemployment rate of 8.8% compared to female Albertans whose unemployment rate was 3.7%, a difference of 5.1 percentage points.

**Figure 5**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008



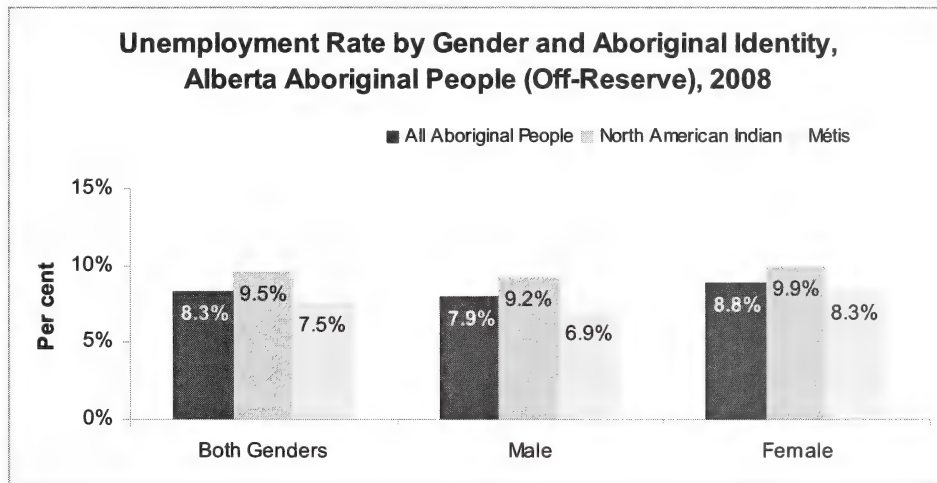


#### 4. Unemployment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

Of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve, North American Indians experienced higher unemployment rates in 2008 (Figure 6). The unemployment rate was 9.5% for North American Indians, which was 2.0 percentage points higher than for the Métis people.

Unemployment rates for North American Indian women and Métis women were more similar than those for males of these two Aboriginal identities. The gap in unemployment rates between North American Indian males and Métis males was 2.3 percentage points, higher than the 1.6 percentage point difference between North American Indian women and Métis women.

**Figure 6**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008



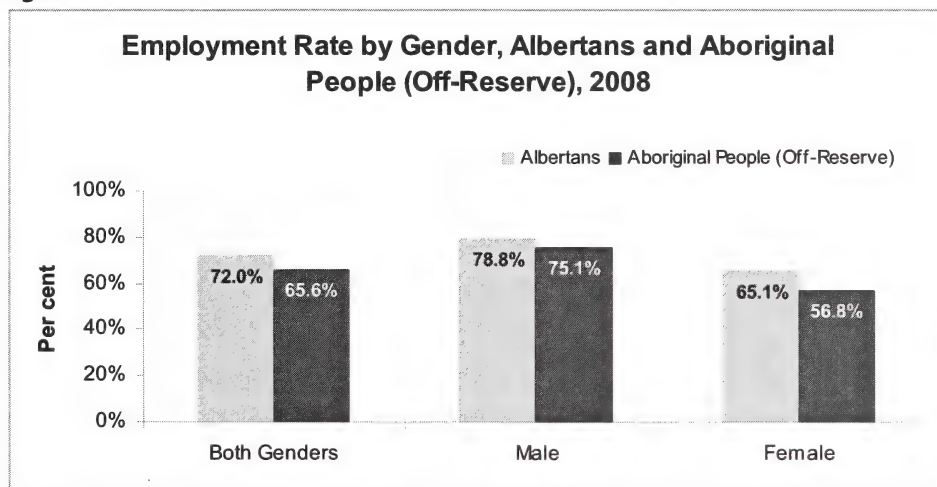


## 5. Employment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

The employment rate by gender in Figure 7 shows that in 2008, the employment rate for Albertans 15 years and over was 6.4 percentage points higher than for Aboriginal adults living off-reserve. The employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was 65.6%.

The employment rate for off-reserve Aboriginal males was over 75%. The employment rate for Alberta males exceeded that of Aboriginal males (off-reserve) by 3.7 percentage points. The difference in female employment rates, at 8.3 percentage points, was larger between Alberta women and Aboriginal women.

**Figure 7**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008

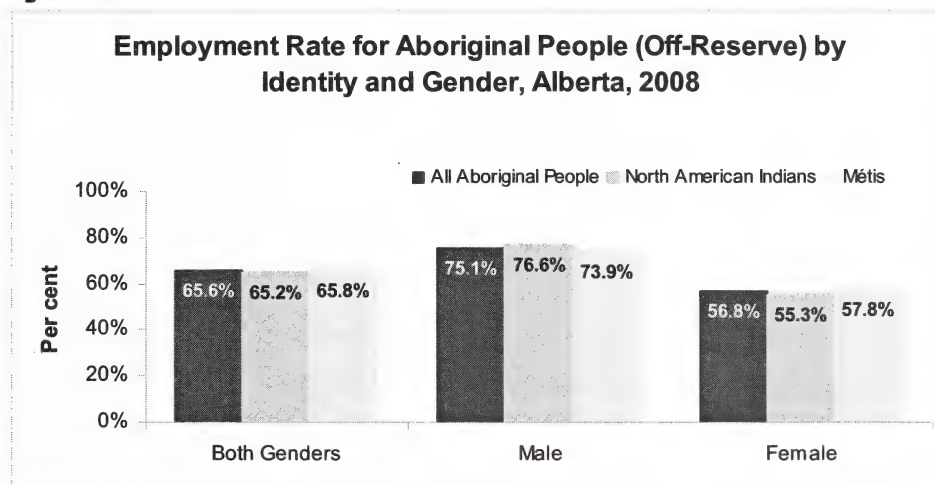


## 5. Employment Rate of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

The employment rates for Aboriginal people (off-reserve) by Aboriginal identities are displayed in Figure 8 below.

For Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve, Métis people had a higher employment rate, at 65.8%. Aboriginal males had a higher employment rate than their female counterparts across both Aboriginal identities.

**Figure 8**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008





## 6. Employment by Industry Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2008, 67.2% of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve was employed in the Services-Producing Sector, while 32.8% were employed in the Goods-Producing Sector.

More than half of employed Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve worked in the following five industries: Retail and Wholesale Trade, 15.2%; Construction, 14.1%; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil and Gas, 10.4%; Health Care and Social Assistance, 7.2%; and Transportation and Warehousing, 7.1%.

**Figure 9**

<b>Employment of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve) by Industry, 2008</b>		
	<b>Employment</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>66,500</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Goods-Producing Sector</b>	<b>21,800</b>	<b>32.8%</b>
Agriculture	n/a	n/a
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas	6,900	10.4%
Utilities	n/a	n/a
Construction	9,400	14.1%
Manufacturing	4,500	6.8%
<b>Services-Producing Sector</b>	<b>44,700</b>	<b>67.2%</b>
Educational Services	2,900	4.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,800	7.2%
Public Administration	2,100	3.2%
Retail and Wholesale Trade	10,100	15.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	4,700	7.1%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	2,500	3.8%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	2,300	3.5%
Management of Companies and Administrative and Other Support Services	3,700	5.6%
Information, Culture and Recreation	3,700	5.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	4,500	6.8%
Other Services	3,400	5.1%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008

Note: n/a signifies a suppressed figure due to insufficient response





## 7. Employment by Occupation Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

Approximately 72% of Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta was employed in three occupations in 2008: Trades, transport and equipment operators and related, 29.2%; Sales and service, 25.9%; and Business, finance and administrative, 16.5%. Together, these three occupational groups accounted for 71.6% of the employment of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve.

**Figure 10**

<b>Employment by Occupation, Albertans and Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve), Alberta, 2008</b>				
	<b>Albertans</b>		<b>Aboriginal Albertans</b>	
	Employment	% of Total	Employment	% of Total
<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>2,014,900</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>66,500</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management occupations	165,400	8.2%	3,400	5.1%
Business, finance and administrative occupations	373,400	18.5%	11,000	16.5%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	154,200	7.7%	1,800	2.7%
Health occupations	103,700	5.1%	2,000	3.0%
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	149,900	7.4%	3,600	5.4%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	45,800	2.3%	1,300	2.0%
Sales and service occupations	456,700	22.7%	17,200	25.9%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	378,800	18.8%	19,400	29.2%
Occupations unique to primary industry	121,500	6.0%	4,700	7.1%
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	65,500	3.3%	2,200	3.3%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008

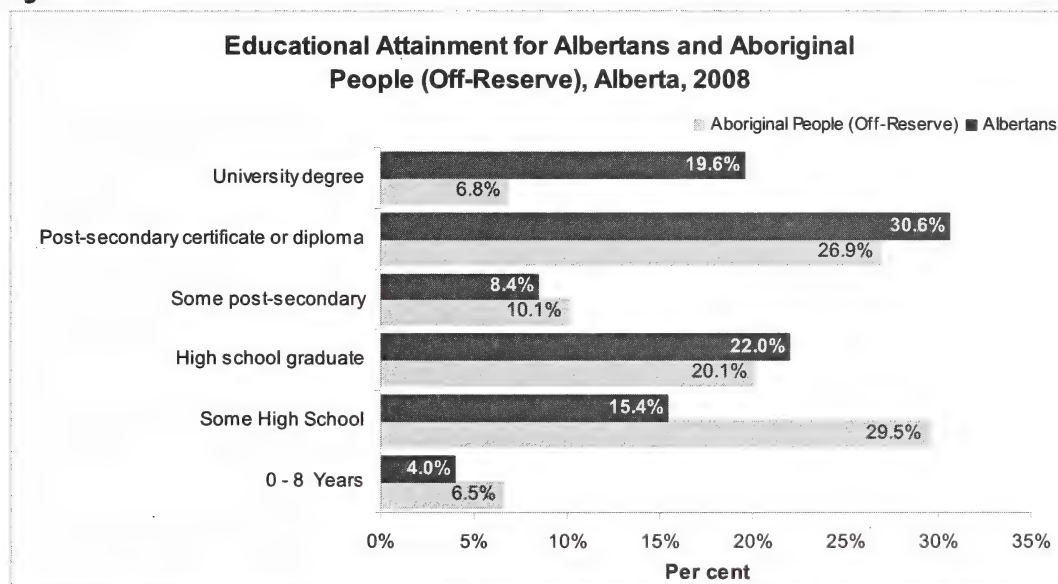


## 8. Educational Attainment of Alberta's Aboriginal People (Off-Reserve)

In 2008, 20.1% of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve have completed secondary education. Another 26.9% have attained post-secondary certificates or diplomas; and 6.8% have attained university degrees.

Figure 11 shows the educational attainment of the working age population of all Albertans and Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve in 2008. Thirty six per cent of Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve had less than a high school diploma. The proportion of Alberta's working age population who had less than a high school diploma was 19.4%.

**Figure 11**



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2008

Additional information about Alberta Aboriginal Labour Force Statistics may be found at:  
<http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/2660.html>





## Appendix

All definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

**Aboriginal People:** Aboriginal people refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo), and/or who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the *Indian Act of Canada*, and/or who reported being a member of an Indian Band or First Nation.<sup>2</sup>

**Employment Rate:** The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

**Industry:** The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

**Occupation:** The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

**Participation Rate:** The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

**Working Age Population:** Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

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<sup>2</sup> 2001 Census Dictionary, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 92-378-XIE







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